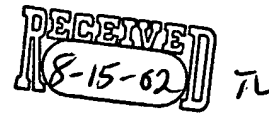


Official



09/746,212, entitled "A FULL MESH INTERCONNECT BACKPLANE ARCHITECTURE," filed December 22, 2000, which is assigned to the corporate assignee of the present application and incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph 0020 on page 8 with:

In one embodiment, traffic crosses the mesh, or switching fabric, in an asynchronous manner in that no central clock signal drives data across the mesh. Data is transmitted by the ingress cards without reference to a bus or mesh clock or frame synchronization signal. A protocol for use in communicating over the mesh is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent application number 09/745,982, entitled "A BACKPLANE PROTOCOL," filed December 22, 2000, which is assigned to the corporate assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph 0029 on page 11 with:

Data received from the egress card ports is stored in the egress buffer. In one embodiment, the egress buffer includes a cache for each link (i.e., link between ingress card 2 and egress card 2, link between ingress card 3 and egress card 2). Each cache includes a queue for each class of data. By including a queue for each class of data, the egress buffer can provide quality of service functionality.

Please replace paragraph 0035 on pages 12 and 13 with:

Data flow control is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent application number 09/812,985 filed March 19, 2001, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SWITCH FABRIC FLOW CONTROL," which is assigned to the corporate assignee of the present U.S. Patent application and incorporated by reference herein.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A network switch having an asynchronous mesh to transfer data from ingress interfaces to egress interfaces, the ingress interfaces to receive data from external sources and to selectively and asynchronously transmit the data across the asynchronous mesh to the egress interfaces, the egress interfaces to receive data from the asynchronous mesh and to transmit the data to external destinations.